(c) whether it is a fact that these are the handiwork of vested interest who collected money from the producer ;

(d) whether it is a fact that their action has resulted in increase in prices in general from 100 per cent to 150 per cent;

(e) whether his Ministry called for any explanation from the Chairman of the Committee and also from the officer incharge in his Ministry who examined and implemented them; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (f) The report of the Kelkar Committee, which had experts from different connected disciplines, was an experts opinion. Therefore, the question of fixing the responsibility does not arise. However, in the past comments, from Dr. Kelkar were obtaind on certain specific issues and he reiterated the view of the Committee.

Recently the Department examined about 1000 cases of the non-schedule formulations and it was found that the price rise in October, 1989 was more than 100% in only 15 cases, more than 50% in 89 cases and the rest below 50% base period being 1984 to 1988.

Identification of Drugs

709. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ti is a fact that his Ministry has already taken three years to finalise Category-I and Catcogory-II lists of DPCO-87;

(b) by when the Ministry would be able to finalise the lists; and

(c) how many committees were set up by his Ministry for identification of drugs for price control, what were the terms of reference of each and what was the period each Committee took to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The Drug (Price Control), Order, 1987 which was announced on 26.8.1987 had lists of Category I and Category II drugs at the time of its introduction. The present exercise to review these lists is based on the various representations received on the subject by the Government.

(c) Govt. had constituted only one Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, BICP for identfication drugs for price control under Category II of DPCO. On receiving certain representations after the notification of DPCO, 1987, the terms of this Committee was extended by the Government. The copies of the Main and the Supplementary Reports of the Kelkar Committee are alredy available in the Parliament Library. These Reports contain the terms of reference as well as the time taken by the Committee to finalise its Main as well as Supplementary Report.

Recovery of overcharged amounts on Flucort Range Formulations

710. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to to Unstarred Question 2080 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Flucinolone Acetonide was under price control order announced in 1979;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for fixing the prices of its formulations in 1984;

(c) what was the price fixed for each formulation and what is the price of each on the 25th Feb. 89 and what is the percentage change in each case;

(d) what is the unintended benefit calculated on *suo-moto* basis;

(e) what is the quantity of each formulation taken year-wise, price fixed and price charged and what is the rate of recovery taken for amount assessed; and

(f) what concrete steps were taken to recover the assessed amount and how much amount has been recovered upto the 28th February, 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The prices of Flucort range of formulations based on Flucionolone Acetonide was fixed on suo-moto basis in 1984 because the company did not submit any application to the Government for price approval for Flucort range of formulations on the ground that the bulk drug Flucinolone Acetonide required for Flucort range of formulations was not covered under DPCO,1979.

(c) The requisite information to the extent availalo is given in the annexed Statement.

(d) to (f) Since despite reminders the company refused to make available the requisite details, the quantum of unintended benefit was being calculated on suo-moto basis. In the mentime, the company has again contented that the bulk drug Flucinolone Acetonide was not covered under DPCO, 1979. The matter has been referred to the Law Ministry for their opinion.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the formulation	Pack size	Retail price as per Indian Pharmaceutical Guide, 1989 (Rs.)	Retail price with Excise duty fixed under DPCO, 1979 (Rs.)
1	Fluocort Ointment	15gm. Tube	9·56	3·91
2	Fluocort N Skin Ointment	5 gm. Tube	N.A.	1·85
3	Fluocort N Skin Ointment	15gm. Tube	10·56	3·77
4	Fluocort H Ointment	5 gm. Tube	9·03	2·91
5	Fluocort H Ointment	15gm. Tube	22·75	6·97
6	Fluocort Skin Lotion 0·01%	15ml Bottle	6·28	2·60
7	Fluocort Skin Lotion 0·02	15ml Bottle	10·56	3·26